

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1           1.       A method for selecting one of multiple data paths to a device, comprising:  
2           selecting one of multiple paths indicated as enabled to transmit data, wherein a  
3 path is indicated as enabled or disabled;  
4           gathering transfer time data for each enabled path capable of being selected; and  
5           indicating paths as disabled having transfer time data satisfying a threshold,  
6 wherein paths indicated as disabled are not capable of being selected to use to transmit  
7 data.

1           2.       The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
2           indicating one disabled path as enabled after performing a threshold number of  
3 transfer operations.

1           3.       The method of claim 2, further comprising:  
2           disabling the path for a first threshold number of transfer operations if the path has  
3 a transfer data time satisfying a first threshold; and  
4           disabling the path for a second threshold number of transfer operations if the path  
5 has a transfer data time satisfying a second threshold.

1           4.       The method of claim 1, wherein transfer time data is gathered by path and  
2 transfer size, wherein a path is disabled for a given transfer size and wherein one path  
3 disabled for one transfer size is capable of being enabled for at least one other transfer  
4 size.

1           5.       The method of claim 1, wherein gathering transfer time data further  
2 comprises:

9. The method of claim 5, wherein the transfer time is measured from the time the transfer is sent to the device to the time a response is received from the device

[illegible]

1        14.    The method of claim 1 wherein the paths extend through a network.

1        18.        The system of claim 15, wherein transfer time data is gathered by path and  
2        transfer size, wherein a path is disabled for a given transfer size and wherein one path  
3        disabled for one transfer size is capable of being enabled for at least one other transfer  
4        size.

6 means for determining the average cumulative transfer time for the measurement  
7 period by dividing the cumulative time by the cumulative number of transfers for each  
8 enabled path, wherein the path is indicated as disabled if the average cumulative transfer  
9 time for the path satisfies the threshold.

21. The system of claim 19, wherein transfer time data is gathered by path and transfer size, and wherein the average cumulative transfer time is calculated for each enabled path and for at least one transfer size.

22. The system of claim 21, wherein the measurement period comprises a number of transfer operations for all paths for a transfer size, wherein the determination to disable paths for a transfer size occurs after the number of transfer operations in the measurement period has occurred, and further comprising means for starting another measurement period to gather transfer time data for the transfer size after determining paths to disable for the transfer size.

1           23.    The system of claim 19, wherein the transfer time is measured from the  
2   time the transfer is sent to the device to the time a response is received from the device  
3   indicating that the transfer completed, further comprising means for adding the transfer  
4   time for a transfer transmitted down the path to the cumulative transfer time for the path.

1           24.    The system of claim 19, further comprising:  
2           means for determining a best average transfer time from the average cumulative  
3   transfer times for all paths for each enabled path, wherein the means for determining  
4   whether the average cumulative transfer time for one path satisfies the threshold  
5   comprises means for determining whether the average cumulative transfer time for the  
6   path exceeds the best average transfer time by a percentage amount.

1           25.    The system of claim 24, wherein the means for determining whether the  
2   average cumulative transfer time satisfies the threshold further comprises means for  
3   disabling the path for a first number of transfer operations if the average cumulative  
4   transfer time for the path exceeds the best average transfer time by a first percentage  
5   amount and disabling the path for a second number of transfer operations if the average  
6   cumulative transfer time for the path exceeds the best average transfer time by a second  
7   percentage amount.

1           26.    The system of claim 15, wherein the multiple paths comprise multiple  
2   paths between a first controller and a second controller, and wherein one path is selected  
3   to transmit updates to a primary storage area managed by the first controller to the second  
4   controller to store in a secondary storage area.

1           27.    The system of claim 25, wherein transfer time data is gathered by path and  
2   a size of the update, wherein a path is disabled for a given update size and wherein the  
3   path is capable of being enabled for at least one other update size.

1           28.    The system of claim 15, wherein the paths extend through a network.

1           29.    An information bearing medium for selecting one of multiple data paths to  
2 a device, wherein the information bearing medium includes code capable of causing a  
3 processor to perform:

4           selecting one of multiple paths indicated as enabled to transmit data, wherein a  
5 path is indicated as enabled or disabled;

6           gathering transfer time data for each enabled path capable of being selected; and

7           indicating paths as disabled having transfer time data satisfying a threshold,

8 wherein paths indicated as disabled are not capable of being selected to use to transmit  
9 data.

1           30.    The information bearing medium of claim 29, further capable of causing  
2 the processor to perform:

3           indicating one disabled path as enabled after performing a threshold number of  
4 transfer operations.

1           31.    The information bearing medium of claim 30, further capable of causing  
2 the processor to perform:

3           disabling the path for a first threshold number of transfer operations if the path has  
4 a transfer data time satisfying a first threshold; and

5           disabling the path for a second threshold number of transfer operations if the path  
6 has a transfer data time satisfying a second threshold.

1           32.    The information bearing medium of claim 29, wherein transfer time data is  
2 gathered by path and transfer size, wherein a path is disabled for a given transfer size and  
3 wherein one path disabled for one transfer size is capable of being enabled for at least one  
4 other transfer size.

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1           37.    The information bearing medium of claim 33, wherein the transfer time is  
2    measured from the time the transfer is sent to the device to the time a response is received  
3    from the device indicating that the transfer completed, and further causing the processor  
4    to perform adding the transfer time for a transfer transmitted down the path to the  
5    cumulative transfer time for the path.

1           38.    The information bearing medium of claim 33, and further causing the  
2    processor to perform:  
3           for each enabled path, determining a best average transfer time from the average  
4    cumulative transfer times for all paths, wherein determining whether the average  
5    cumulative transfer time for one path satisfies the threshold comprises determining  
6    whether the average cumulative transfer time for the path exceeds the best average  
7    transfer time by a percentage amount.

1           39.    The information bearing medium of claim 38, wherein determining  
2    whether the average cumulative transfer time satisfies the threshold further comprises  
3    disabling the path for a first number of transfer operations if the average cumulative  
4    transfer time for the path exceeds the best average transfer time by a first percentage  
5    amount and disabling the path for a second number of transfer operations if the average  
6    cumulative transfer time for the path exceeds the best average transfer time by a second  
7    percentage amount.

1           40.    The information bearing medium of claim 29, wherein the multiple paths  
2    comprise multiple paths between a first controller and a second controller, and wherein  
3    one path is selected to transmit updates to a primary storage area managed by the first  
4    controller to the second controller to store in a secondary storage area.

1           42.     The information bearing medium of claim 29, wherein the paths extend  
2 through a network.

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